

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /055 W

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R 020912Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HOHNOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5918

E.O. 11652 NGDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, CH

SUBJECT: LDP FACTIONAL MANEUVERING

REF: TOKYO 5092

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: FOUR SENIOR LDP LEADERS REPRESENTING DISSIDENT FACTIONS WITHIN PARTY MET APRIL 30 OSTENSIBLY TO URGE PROMPT CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TREATY. MORE LIKELY PURPOSE WAS TO ISOLATE PRO-TAIWAN FUKUDA FACTION AND EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER MIKI BY THIS PUBLIC DISPLAY OF DISSIDENT UNITY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT URGING UPPER HOUSE KENZO KONO, FORMER PRIMIE MINISTER KAKUEI TANAKA, FINANCE MINISTER MASAYOSHI IHIRA, AND PARTY STRONGMAN SHIGERU HORI MET WITH KONO APRIL 3P OSTENSIBLY TO URGE PROMPT CONCLUSION OF JAPAN-CHINA FRIENDSHIP TREATY. TREATY IS STILL HUNG UP OVER CONTROVERSIAL HEGEMONY ISSUE. ALL EXCEPT HORI ARE MEMBERS OF DISSIDENT LDP (ANTI-MAINSTREAM) TANAKA AND OHIRA  
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FACTIONS.

2. PRESS SPECULATES THAT LDP VICE PRESIDENT AND ORIGINAL MIKI PROMOTER ESTUSABURO SHIINA, WHO HAS PUBLICLY VOICED CRITICISM OF PRIMIN RECENTLY (REFTEL) MAY ALSO LATER JOIN GROUP. SHIINA HIMSELF REFUSES TO CONFIRM OR DENY.

3. COMMENT. DESPITE ALLEGED REASON FOR BIG FOUR MEETING, THIS PUBLIC DISPLAY OF DISSIDENT UNITY APPEARS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ISLOATE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TAKEO FUKUDA, A LEADING CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED MIKI, AND EMBARRASS PRIME MINISTER MIKI HIMSELF

GIVEN CONTINUING ROUGH BALANCE BETWEEN MIKI-FUKUDA AND TANAKA-OHIRA GROUPINGS, HOWEVER, WE BELEIVE IT UNLIKELY AT THIS STAGE THAT DISSIDENTS CAN DO MORE THAN SIMPLY INDICATED THERE IS (AS EVERYONE KNOWS) ALTERNATE FACTIONAL GROUPING NOT ONLY WAITING TO TAKE POWER, BUT INCREASINGLY UNITED IN VIEWPOINT. INJECTION OF INTRA-LDP FACTIONAL IN-FIGHTING WILL ALSO COMPLICATE HEGEMONY ISSUE SETTLEMENT.

4. TWO OTHER ASPECTS OF BIG FOUR MEETING WORTH NOTING. IT WAS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WHO HAS FACTIONAL STRENGTH AND RESOURCES TO PLAY MORE PROMINENT ROLE IN LDP BUT WHO HAS AVOIDED IT UP TO NOW BECAUSE OF PENDING CHARGES AGAINST HIM. SECND IS PROMINENT ROLE OF HORI, WHO ALONG WITH MIKI WAS ONE OF SMALL GROUP COMPROMISE CANDIDATES FOR LDP PRESIDENCY (AND PRIME MINISTERSHIP) POTENTIALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH FUKUDA AND TANAKA-OHIRA FACTIONAL GROUPINGS. STILL NOMINALLY A MEMBER OF FUKADA FACTION, HORI HAS NOW PUBLICLY FORGED LINKS WITH TANAKA-OHIRA GROUPINGS AND CLEARLY ONE MAN TO WATCH AS LDP FACTIONAL MANEUVERING CONTINUES. HODGSON

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